Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06120 221750Z ACTION NEA-10

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R 220535Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3078 INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS JIDDA 6120

CORRECTEDCOPY FOR TEXT

E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CGEN. SA

SUBJ: CONSULAR CONVENTION: COUNTRY-WIDE COORDINATION

REF: STATE 160287

1. POST HAS REVIEWED COMMENTS FROM USLO RIYADH REGARDING CONSULAR PROBLEM AREAS WHICH A CONSULAR CONVENTION MIGHT RECTIFY, AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS REFERRED TO IN REFTEL BY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, DHAHRAN.

2. FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES IN DRAFT CONVENTION WHICH POST BELIEVES WILL IMPROVE CONVENTION, IN LIGHT OF THESE COMMENTS:

A. DELETE "IN ADVANCE" IN BOTH ARTICLE 4, PARAGRAPH 1 (PAGE 7), AND ARTICLE 5, PARAGRAPH 3 (PAGE 8). DHAHRAN FEELS THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTICE COULD BE A BURDEN IN VIEW OF SHORT NOTICE OF ARRIVAL OF OFFICERS TO POST, AND IN VIEW IN-COUNTRY MAIL TRANSMISSION DELAYS. B. DELETE "EXCEPT RESIDENCES FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WHO ARE NATIONALS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE RECEIVING STATE." FROM ARTICLE 9, PARAGRAPH 1. (PAGE 13). SUCH EMPLOYEES MAY BE REQUIRED TO LIVE ON-COMPOUND FOR REASONS OF EMERGENCY DUTY, ONCE REQUIRING THE CONSULATE TO USE ITS LAND FOR THEIR RESIDENCE. C. ARTICLE 13, PARAGRAPH 4: CAN "SERIOUS REASON" LINCLASSIFIED.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 06120 221750Z

BE DEFINED MORE SPECIFICALLY IN THE CONVENTION, SO AS TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE INSTANCES OF RETURN OF CONSULAR SUPPLIES BECAUSE OF THE CAPRICE OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS? D. ARTICLE 14, PARAGRAPH 3(C): DELETE THE ENTIRE PROVISION FOR WAIVER OF IMMUNITY IN CASE OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN CASE OF ACCIDENT INJURY OR DEATH, ALL INVOLVED DRIVERS ARE USUALLY PLACED UNDER POLICE CUSTODY UNTIL DETERMINATION OF GUILT AND SETTLEMENT IS

MADE. ADDITIONALLY, PARTIES IN SAUDI ARABIA CAN BE HELD PARIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS IN WHICH THEY ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A RECKLESSLY SPEEDING DRIVER SWERVES TO AVOID YOUR CAR AND HITS ANOTHER, YOU MAY SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACCIDENT SIMPLY BY VIRTUE OF BEING "LIABLE" FOR HAVING YOUR CAR IN THE ROAD AT THE TIME. THUS, THIRD-PARTY LIABILITY COULD SUBJECT CONSULAR STAFF TO CLAIMS RESULTING FROM ACCIDENTS IN WHICH THEY WERE NOT

INVOLVED.E. SPECIFIC MENTION OF IMMUNITIES APPLYING TO AMERICAN CONSULAR STAFF AND MSG MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE CONVENTION.

F. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO SEE LANGUAGE INCORPORATED INTO THE CONVENTION WHICH WILL FACILITATE THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SENDING AND RECEIVING STATES, AND SET SPECIFIC MINIMEL STANDARDS FOR TIMELINESS AND UNIFORMITY OF NOTIFICATION OF DEATH OR ARREST OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, ISSUANCE OF VISAS, AND THE FACILITATION OF CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS UNDER DETENTION OR IN OTHER DISTRESSED CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. EMBASSY IS POUCHING SUBMISSIONS FROM DHAHRAN AND RIYADH FOR INFORMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT. WEST

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